

Urban District Council, Barnard Castle.

Medical Officer's Annual Report (Ordinary), 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the above year.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	559
Population (Census 1931. 3883)	Estimated	...	...	...	3,990
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books					1,108
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)					1,062
Rateable Value					£24,675
Sum represented by a Penny Rate					£90

The Vital Statistics shows the death rate to be higher this year, but out of 74 deaths registered, no less than 48 were of persons of 65 years and upwards. The birth rate however is considerably higher this year, the numbers being 25 boys and 38 girls.

The cases of Tuberculosis are few and will in my opinion become less on the completion of the Slum Clearance Scheme, and I must especially congratulate the Council on the acceptance of a further 13 clearance areas by the Ministry of Health, and rehousing will be provided.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are still chiefly concerned in Agriculture and markets for cattle and other farming produce, but its residential advantages are increasing, and 13 new residential houses were built during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. Owing to the very severe drought last summer the water had to be curtailed for some hours at night during the latter months of the drought. The supply was otherwise maintained continuously throughout the year.

Rivers and Streams.—Since the new notice boards were fixed, the fouling of the fore-shore has to a great extent been abated. Action should be taken against offenders.

Refuse Tip.—The new refuse tip is working satisfactorily, is well removed from the nearest dwelling, no nuisance has occurred, and no complaints have been received. The old tip is being covered with earth and hard material.

Sewerage and Sewage Farm.—The effluent from the Sewage Works has been satisfactory and no complaint has been received from official quarters.

I am pleased to report that the scheme submitted for the relaying of many of the very old and defective sewers in the town and also certain improvements at the Sewage Disposal Works has been approved by the Ministry of Health and that the work should be commenced shortly.

Closet Accommodation.—Owing to action taken under the Housing Acts many properties with pail closets are being demolished. The number of pail closets is now only 23 a reduction of 11 during the year and when action can be taken with respect to many more properties already confirmed by the Ministry of Health for demolition this number will be further reduced, and the time is not far distant when the last remaining pail closets will be discontinued or converted into water carriage system.

The last five privies remain the same. These are on outlying farms and cannot at the present time be drained into the sewers.

Housing.—67 new residential houses were completed during the year an increase of 36 on the previous year, and 9 are in course of construction. This figure includes 54 houses of different types completed to accommodate approximately 213 displaced persons from the first 8 Clearance Areas.

A further 13 Clearance Areas have now been confirmed by the Ministry. The survey and reports of the last remaining areas will be prepared and presented at an early date.

Rehousing accommodation for the displaced persons from the above Clearance Areas will be provided.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Sanitary Administration.—List of Adoptive Acts, Bye Laws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health includes the Public Health Act 1907, Factory and Workshops Act 1901, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order 1885, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, Bye-laws under the Public Health Act 1875 (but are now being revised), Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations 1924 and 1925, Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, the Public Health Act 1925, the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations 1926, the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, and also the Order as to Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1926, Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1927, Amendment Regulations to (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations 1926, also the Order as to Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1926, and Vaccination Order 1929, Housing Acts 1925 and 1930, Housing Act 1935, Housing Act 1936, Public Health Act 1936.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which summarises the work done by his department, includes visits and inspections by myself in conjunction with the Inspector with respect to infectious diseases, dairies, cowsheds and other cases occurring under the Public Health Acts.

			Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—Structural Defects	...	...	9	7	9
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	...	2	—	2
Slaughter-houses	...	...	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	—	—	—
Water-closets	...	...	3	3	3
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	2	2	2
House Drainage	Defective Traps	...	—	—	—
	No Disconnection from Sewers	...	8	5	8
	Other Faults	...	46	—	46
Water Supply	...	...	—	42	42
Pail Closets	...	...	7	—	7
Defective Insanitary Ashbins	...	...	23	—	23
Other nuisances	...	...	6	2	3
Totals	...	...	106	61	145

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—30 houses disinfected after infectious disease.

GENERAL.—Number of new houses erected during the year, 67; number of such houses occupied during year, 67; total number water-closets in district, 1,289; total number of ash-closets in district, 23; total number of ash-pit privies in district, 5.

Factories and Workshops.—2 factories and 22 workshops are contained in the Register, no alterations having been made during the year.

Common Lodging-houses.—There is only one, 23, Bridgegate, which is fairly satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.—There has been no smoke nuisance reported in the area during the year.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools are good and no complaints have been made. No special action has been taken in relation to the condition of the Schools or the health of the scholars other than those indicated by complaint to the Authorities.

Housing Statistics.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	134
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	134
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	67
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	67
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	62
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	31

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	27
2. Number of families dwelling therein	27
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	116
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—The Register comprises 19 Milk-Sellers. Of this number 18 are retail and one a wholesale producer, and 5 have Cowsheds in the Urban Area.

Slaughter-houses.—The number, seven, remains the same, three of which are subject to yearly licence, and all are kept in fair conformity with the Bye-laws.

Meat Regulations.—No complaint and no special action has been taken with regard to any other foods. All slaughter-houses, market stalls, and other places where food is prepared are subjected to frequent supervision. No bacteriological examination of samples was made, and all slaughter-men are now registered. Killings:— 18 beasts, 75 sheep, 23 pigs, and 6 calves per week averaged.

Adulteration, etc.—No action taken or required.

Water, Food and Drugs.—No samples were taken during the year and no complaint was made. Improvement is still necessary for the better protection of perishable food commodities, and this apparently can only be brought about by propaganda and the helpful assistance of the intending purchasers. No special examination of food was required or made.

VITAL STATISTICS : 1932 to 1937.

Year	Estimated Population	Births			Total Deaths Registered		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths in District			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Non-residents Registered	Residents Not Registered	Under one year		At All Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate
1933	4112	—	46	11·18	48	11·67	7	4	nil	nil	45	10·94
1934	4030	65	57	14·14	57	14·14	8	3	2	35·08	52	12·90
1935	4020	—	46	11·44	57	14·17	9	4	2	43·47	52	12·93
1936	4020	48	45	11·19	53	13·17	9	8	nil	nil	52	12·93
1937	3990	63	59	14·78	74	18·54	12	16	3	50·84	77	19·29

Causes of Deaths registered during 1937. (Classified by Age and Cause.)

Causes of Death		All ages	Under 1 year	1 and 15 yrs.	15 and 30 yrs.	30 and 40 yrs.	40 and 50 yrs.	50 and 65 yrs.	65 and upwards
1. Influenza	...	1						1	
2. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	3					1	1	1
3. Tuberculosis of other forms	...	1				1			
4. Cancer—malignant disease	...	8					1	1	6
5. Diseases of the nervous system & sense organs	...	2			1			1	
6. Diseases of the Heart	...	25						5	20
7. Other diseases of the Circulatory system	...	14						1	13
8. Bronchitis	...	2							2
9. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1		1					
10. Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	2					1	1	
11. Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	0							
12. Other diseases of the digestive system	...	1				1			
13. Non venereal diseases of the genito urinary system	...	6						1	5
14. Premature Birth & diseases of early infancy	...	3	3						
15. Old age	...	1							1
16. Violence all forms	...	2			1			1	
17. Syphilis	...	1			1				
18. Pernicious Anaemia	...	1				1			
		74	3	1	3	3	3	13	48

		TOTAL	M.	F.
Live Births {	Legitimate ...	60	23	37
	Illegitimate ...	3	2	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		15·78		
Deaths ...		74	37	37
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		18·54		
Deaths from puerperal causes:				
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...			nil	
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes ...			nil	
Total ...			nil	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		nil		

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	50·84
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	17·54
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	666·66
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	8
Deaths from Measles all ages	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

Maternal Mortality.—There has been no maternal mortality. No special arrangements have been made for the investigation of maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia.

Institutional provision for the care of Mental Defectives, nil.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

Notifiable Diseases during 1937.—Apart from Scarlet Fever the area has been comparatively free from infectious disease as the statistics show. The only cases dealt with (where necessary) by removal to the Isolation Hospital are Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Small Pox.

All Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are made by the Newcastle Centre, and all Sera-Vaccines and Diphtheria Anti-Toxin are supplied by the Medical Officer of Health where necessary and required. Strict inquiries are always made as to possible contacts and the source of infection, and on several occasions the Schools have been specially inspected.

No special use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests, but the Urban Council has adopted the method of immunization against Diphtheria.

There was only one death from Influenza, which was of a mild type.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	27	26	0
Diphtheria	1	0	0
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid)	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	0

There are no special facilities for cleansing and disinfection except through washing, boiling, fumigation, and the free use of disinfectants.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No case notified.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 to 25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 to 35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 to 45	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
45 to 55	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	1

5 new cases were registered during the year. 4 deaths were registered.

No notification of any tubercular employees in the milk trade has been received, nor has any action been taken under any Article of the Tuberculosis Regulation.

There was no reason to suspect non-notification or neglect. All cases of Tuberculosis are advised as to the necessity for disinfection and the paramount need for cleanliness and fresh air.

All cases are reported to the County Medical Officer. Weekly returns of all cases notified are sent to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer.

All cases, where suitable, are referred to the County Authorities at the Dispensary at Darlington, and if necessary are removed to a Sanatorium for special treatment.

Venereal Diseases.—Any case requiring special treatment would come under the supervision of the County Council Authorities, and no action has been taken under the Venereal Disease Act, 1917.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Staff.—The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. He also acts as Inspector under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Grants are made to his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time Officer. Half of his salary as Inspector is paid by the Urban Council and half by the County Council.

The District Nurses are part-time Officers. They are Queen's Nurses (State Registered) and act as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurses and hold the Certificate for Midwifery. One is also Health Visitor acting under the County Council. There is also a Nursing Home at 32 Bede Road (proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.), and Registered for three persons.

Hospitals.—There are no special Hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children in the district. There is one Fever Hospital with a special detached building for Small Pox. It is situated in the country half-a-mile outside the boundary of the Urban Area. It is isolated and in its own ground, and accommodates up to 24 children or 12 adults. It is mainly confined to cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. The special building for Small Pox would accommodate, under the new space standards for Hospitals, about three or four cases.

The expenses for the Hospital are met by the Urban Council, occasionally assisted by charges made in cases where patients are able to pay towards their treatment and upkeep.

The Workhouse Hospital is the only Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, etc.

Ambulance facilities are much improved, consisting of a motor ambulance van for infectious cases, and a motor ambulance for accident and urgent cases for Hospital has been acquired.

Nursing arrangements.—There is a local Nursing Association consisting of a Voluntary Ladies' Committee. Two qualified Nurses are provided, and the public can have their services on payment of a small fee. They are available in all surgical or medical cases, but not in notifiable infectious cases, such as Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

The County Council assists the Association by annual grants towards midwifery. The ordinary expenses are met by the Association.

The District Nurses are practising midwives in the District.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—Clinic taken over by County Council.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered was 74. Of these 12 were of non-residents registered and 16 of residents not registered, leaving a total of 77 and a rate of 19·29 per 1,000 of the estimated population of 3,990.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered was 59 giving a rate of 14·78 per 1,000 of the estimated population of 3,990.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—3.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. GRIFFIN WARD, M.B., C.H.B.

March, 1938.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.